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PROGRESS REPORT ON KUYBYSHEV GES

The previously completed section of the power transmission line on the left bank of the Volga River between Kuybyshev and the GES construction site was in use in September, carrying 100,000 volts. (2) The other half of the line, on the right bank of the river, was completed in October. On 24 November, the workers of the Elektromontazh Trust completed the installation of a link across the river (5), which they had started on 6 November. It consists of three cables suspended 150 meters above the water. (6) The cables are 1,400 meters long and weigh 11 tons each. (7) On 20 December the power was turned on throughout the whole system, which also includes two substations on the right and left banks of the river respectively. The newly created Kuybyshevstroy Electric Power System compares favorably with many industrial power systems in the USSR. (8)

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During 1951, about 7 million cubic meters of earth were excavated and used for filling other places.(1) New machinery kept arriving at the site continuously throughout 1951; in September a number of steam hammers installed on floats drove sheet piling to form a cofferdam off Zhigulevsk. The second ESh-1 walking excavator arrived in September and was put into operation on the right bank of the river. On the left bank, two electrically operated excavators made by Uralmash and four suction dredges with a capacity of 300 cubic meters per hour each were put into operation at the same time. By the end of 1951, seven additional dredges of the same type are expected.(9) Suction dredges No 320 (10) and No 319, each with capacity of 300 meters per hour, started dredging for the lower lock of the canal on 23 September. Standing near the left bank of the river, they deposited the dredged material along the cofferdam near the right bank through three pipelines on the bottom of the river.(11) The fourth pipeline, of a larger diameter, was laid at the end of September (12); it was put into use on 18 October when a powerful model 1000-80 suction dredge with a capacity of 1,000 cubic meters per hour arrived at the site.(13) The Stalingradskiy No 1, another dredge of the same capacity, which arrived in November, started dredging on 1 December.(14) The dredges were at work 24 hours a day in December (15) in spite of the cold winter in Kuybyshev and the frozen condition of the Volga.(16) Pumps were installed in January to prevent the water around the dredges from freezing by pumping warmer water from the bottom to the surface.(17)

During 1951, about 20,000 tons of steel sheet piling were driven into the bottom of the Volga to form the two cofferdams. It is expected that the cofferdam around the lower lock of the canal will be completed before the spring floods, and that concreting for the foundation of the lock will begin in April.(18)

Sredvolgavodstroy, a special construction organization for building irrigation systems in the Trans-Volga region, which will operate with power supplied by the Kuybyshev GES, was created recently. It has opened branches in Kuybyshev, Saratov, Ul'yanovsk, Chkalov, and Penza oblasts. To carry out the work, the organization will have to excavate 300 million cubic meters of earth and place about 2 million cubic meters of concrete and reinforced concrete. Construction plans include canals extending thousands of kilometers, about 2,000 dams, one of which will be 4.5 kilometers long and 49 meters high and will form a water reservoir with a capacity of 1.5 billion cubic meters, and powerful pumping stations to pump water from the Volga.

Construction work will employ more than 1,000 powerful tractors, bulldozers, and scrapers and hundreds of excavators and thousands of other motor equipment, including 25-ton dump trucks. The 1952 plan calls not only for preliminary work, but for beginning actual construction. Materials and equipment have already started arriving at the construction sites. (19)

SOURCES

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6. Yerevan', Kommunist, 6 Nov 51
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8. Leningradskaya Pravda, 21 Dec 51
9. Ibid., 3 Oct 51
10. Vechernyaya Moskva, 26 Sep 51
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12. Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 30 Sep 51
13. Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 18 Oct 51
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15. Leningradskaya Pravda, 23 Dec 51
16. Moscow, Trud, 9 Dec 51
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